Statement

(a) and (c) The production capacity and the actual production of SAIL steel plants for the last three years is as under :—

('000 tonnes)

PLANT	Installed capacity	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85	
		Production.	%capacity utilisation.	Production.	%capacity utilisation.	Production.	%capacity utilisation.
SALEABLE STEEL							
Bhilai Steel Plant	1965	1838	93.5	1574.4	80.1	1810	90*
Durgapur Steel Plant	1239	813	65.5	602.4	48.6	621	50
Rourkela Steel Plant	1225	992	81.0	862.4	70.4	1013	83
Bokaro Steel Limited	1971	1529	77.6	1288.0	65.3	1459	74
Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited	800	500	62.5	443.8	55.5	380	48
TOTAL : SAIL Group	7200	5672	78.8	4771.0	66.3	5283	73*

*With respect to 2.5 MT stage only at Bhilai Steel Plant.

(c) A new integrated steel plant is being set up at Visakhapatnam. The first phase of the plant to produce 1.2 MT of liquid steel per annum is planned to be commissioned in 1988-89; the second stage of the plant, is planned to be commissioned in 1991-92, this will increase the capacity to 3.4 MT per annum.

Contraband Items seized at Delhi and other Airports

12. SHRI RAMACHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of gold and other contraband items seized by the customs officials at Delhi and other airports during the period from January to June, 1985 and the value thereof;

(b) what are the particulars of persons involved in the smuggling of gold and other contraband items; and

(c) what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI):

(a) The total value of gold and other contraband items seized at airports and elsewhere in the country under the Customs Act, 1962 during the period from January to June, 1985 amounted provisionally to Rs. 83.68 crores Of this gold accounts for Rs. 27.82 crores, watches—Rs. 3.74 crores and synthetic fabrics—

Rs. 9.01 crores. Commodity-wise statistics of seizures at airports is not, now, maintained separately.

(b) and (c) Besides initiating departmental proceedings for confiscation of smuggled goods and imposition of personal penalties on the persons involved in smuggling of gold and other contraband items, 1,204 such persons were arrested during the period from January to June, 1985. During the same period, orders for preventive detention against 543 persons under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 were passed. No separate figures for airports are, however, maintained.

Legislation to Check Smuggling of Narcotics and Drug Abuse

*13. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring forward a comprehensive Bill to check smuggling of narcotics and drug abuse in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that India figures prominently on the world narcotic smuggling map; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to prevent smuggling of heroin and other narcotic drugs and also prevent misuse of drugs by the younger generation of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir. A draft for comprehensive legislation on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to check smuggling of such drugs and substances is at an advanced stage of finalisation for introduction in Parliament.

(a) and (c) The production capacity and the actual production of SAIL steel lem of transit traffic in drugs. This is also evident from the recent reports of the International Narcotics Control Board. In its report for the year 1984 the Board has, *inter alia*, observed that, "India is increasingly used as a transit country for opiates and cannabis destined for other regions of the world and New Delhi and Bombay are reportedly the most important exit points for these drugs".

The field formations remain vigilant to check smuggling including that of narcotics. Appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. Close co-operation with the concerned international agencies is also maintained to curb smuggling of drugs. Action regarding prevention of drug abuse is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare. The matter is kept under constant review for appropriate action.

Finance Minister's interview with Public on TV

*14. DR. H. P. SHARMA.
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the public grievances brought to his notice during his last interview with the public on T. V.; and

(b) what steps have been taken so far in the light thereof to redress the grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) In the 'Janvani Programme' on Doordarshan on 2nd July 1985, there were 13 participants voiced their complaints|suggestions parts of country who had an interview with the Finance Minister. The participants voiced their complants|suggestions relating to banking services based on specific problems experienced by them such as delays in encashment|collection of cheques, problems encountered in securing loans, difficulties experienced because of soiled notes and shortage of coins etc. Some issues of general nature such as industrial sickness, increasing overdues of banks were also raised.